

The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Kingston, RI 02881

Annual Report
July 2017 – June 2018



Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.

Mission Statement of the Kingston Congregational Church

“We are a Christian Church that supports each person's spiritual journey
through the communal pursuit of worship, learning, and service.”

(Voted on and approved by the Congregation on April 27, 2008)

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President's Annual Report 2017-18

Council worked on a number of projects during the past year:

A budget was crafted and approved by Council and by the congregation.

Last June delegates attended the RI Conference joint meeting with Connecticut and Massachusetts delegates to discuss a potential merger. Council has spent time since then discussing possible outcomes, with input from Jeff Richardson, who was on the RI Conference Board.

In September, Council sponsored an All Boards and Committees gathering, to provide information and instruction to everyone who serves on a board or committee. Processes and procedures were explained, new Chairs were elected, and delicious desserts were shared.

In light of the many shootings at schools and churches, Council considered options for church safety.

In February Council sponsored a job fair after church in Fellowship Hall to give people information about what all the Boards and Committees do to make our church function. It was also an opportunity for people to sign up to serve on a Board or Committee beginning in July.

Council worked to revise the By-Laws, as required in the By-Laws. Proposed amendments to the current By-Laws were recommended and discussed at a Special Congregational Meeting in April and the final vote on the approved recommendations was taken before the Annual Meeting May 20th.

The benefit auction was held in April and was well attended. The dinner was provided by a number of volunteer cooks, live music provided a lively background, and a large number of auction items were offered. The event raised just over \$7,000 which will go to the general fund for the 2018-19 budget.

Regular Congregational Meetings were held as required by the By-Laws.

Council received a letter of resignation from Weldon Palmer, effective June 3. His resignation and a severance agreement was offered and accepted. We worked with Deacons and the Leadership Development Committee to support their efforts to fill the pulpit, find an interim minister and to begin the search process for a settled pastor. Sharon Ann (Key) Hope will act as our interim pastor beginning September 1.

Many thanks are owed to the people who volunteer their time and talents to keep the church running. I can't stress enough how vital their work is to the functioning of the church and I am forever grateful for the willingness to step up.

This is the end of the second year of my term as President, so on July 1 I will become the Past President. I have learned an amazing amount about how the church works, from the small details to our place in the wider world. I have received at least as much as I have given and I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Joanna M. Burkhardt

Annual Report from the Board of Deacons, July 2017—June 2018

Board Members: Susan Berman (Co-Chair), Charley Sweeney (Co-Chair), Margaret Bradley (Recording Secretary), Dave Remington (Treasurer), Jim Aukerman, Tom Brillat, Joan Henderson, Dottie Leduc, Wayne Lee, Linda Mendillo, and Clare Sweeney.

The Deacons are, as always, grateful to every single person who has been part of our KCC community during the past year. We are particularly grateful to all of the lay preachers in the congregation who conducted services in Weldon's absence. Each month, the Deacon of the Month welcomed the congregation, made announcements and recruited greeters, ushers, lay readers and coffee hour providers for each service. We are grateful to all who performed these weekly offices, to all who worshipped with us Sunday after Sunday, to all who helped with memorial services, and to everyone who served on Boards or Committees and who volunteered time and resources to support our church.

Work for the Board of Deacons this year has included working with Weldon to keep services going fall and spring, given Weldon's health challenges. During the year we reflected, with Weldon, on the Survey responses and set priorities accordingly. Changes in pastoral practice included greeting the congregation after services, posting and keeping office hours, and changing the Maundy Thursday service to better address the needs of those participating. Attendance at the Maundy Thursday service rose by more than 100%. We purchased and began using wireless microphones for Prayer Time and during memorial services so that everyone could hear the requests and reflections. We began a Junior Deacons Program. We discussed with Weldon his ongoing family health issues and accepted his resignation, as offered, keeping Weldon and Tricia in our prayers as they regain their health.

Since Weldon's resignation, we have arranged with Rev. Sharon Ann Hope to be on call this summer for pastoral care, Baptisms, and funerals, as well as conducting some of our summer services. We recruited lay preachers and visiting clergy for services through August. We nominated a search committee for the Interim Pastor and accepted their recommendation and brought it to Council. Council voted unanimously to call Rev. Sharon Ann Hope to be Interim Pastor beginning in September 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Berman
Charley Sweeney
Co-Chairs, Board of Deacons

Kingston Congregational Church - Board of Music Annual Report July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

This Chairman met with Board of Music Members on September 6, 2017 at the All Boards and Committee Meeting. Members are: Chair, C. Elizabeth Candas, Secretary, Lori Ann Hiener, Alternate Secretary, Catherine Lenox, Frank Osterman, Matthew Simeone, Clay V. Sink.

We met 4 times this year: September 24, 2017, December 3, 2017, March 18, 2018 and June 3, 2018.

The Music Board worked closely with Music Director Enrico Garzilli to ensure that all instruments were kept tuned and in good shape. The piano in the Church Hall was fitted with a piano dollie and new “rolling feet” after the old ones were disposed of by the Trustees. This was originally done to protect the new flooring.

This year the members suggested we make a trip available to church members. We decided a bus trip to New York City to see a musical would be appropriate and chose *Anastasia*. Unfortunately we started this in late September and needed 20 members to sign up for a smaller bus/van. Only 15 signed up so this trip was put on hold for the future.

One of our members suggested we do a CD of the KCC Choir and the music we all love. Dr. Garzilli is a wonderful music director and enthusiastic musician. He suggested we ask the congregation for songs they would like to hear on our CD. We received many suggestions and Dr. Garzilli was asked to include well loved music he has composed.

After arranging the “sessions” 2 nights were set aside to record at the church. He also arranged to have the CD “cut” by a local producer. By using professionals who are local, Dr. Garzilli saved on the cost of producing 300 CDs. The \$1713 from the Music Fund used to pay for the CD will be reimbursed to the Music Fund as sales are made. Prentice Stout took a professional picture of the Choir and Frank Lenox prepared the words of the music for the publisher, a real cooperative effort.

Our Music Board has been grappling with the cost of paying musicians. One member in particular wants to cut down on costs and also have a set payment schedule for musicians. This is still being discussed.

The Chair met with Alice Babcock, Church School Director, and Alice is incorporating more music into the Church School programs. Alice has also attended several of our meetings.

The Choir Robes need to be cleaned. This was to be done by June 30, 2018, but most of the funds in our budget went to producing our CD. The robes will be cleaned in the summer.

This has been a creative year for the Music Board. The enthusiasm of our members and new ideas help keep our church stimulated and singing.

C. Elizabeth Candas
Chair - Board of Music

Annual Report 2018 Music Director/Organist

I very much enjoy being organist and music director here at Kingston Congregational Church. I believe this past year again has truly been a wonderful musical and worshipful experience. The Senior Choir continues to be outstanding in its dedicated contribution to Worship. The repertoire of anthems for the choir consists of the best available music from the past as well as new musical texts.

The Senior Choir continues to meet every Thursday evening to prepare for Sunday Worship. I deeply appreciate their great contribution to Worship. The choir membership is as follows:

Sopranos - Loretta Shaw, Margaret Bradley, C. Elizabeth Candas, Susan Hammen-Winn,
Diana Geisler, Sharon Davis, Andrea Richardson, Grace Woodward
Altos - Jean Miller, Karen Johnson, Susan Snow, Canna Falby
Tenors - Matthew Simeone, Ann Ross, Carrie Nally, Clay Sink, Frank Lenox, Gary Davis
Bases - Jim Findlay, Jim Ross, Britt Bell, Bill Nelson, Eric Widmer, Paul Schubert.

Easter was truly wonderful with Trumpet, Percussion, Violin and Flute. We are very fortunate to have Luca Simeone, a very fine trumpet player, play for several of our services. In addition to their singing at service every Sunday, the choir has found time to make a recording. Selections on the recording are as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Come, Ye Faithful | Thatcher |
| 2. Fairest Lord Jesus | Courtney |
| 3. O God You Search me and You Know Me | Farrell |
| 1. Sicut Cervus | Palestrina |
| 2. Quest | Garzilli |
| 3. Ave Verum | Mozart |
| 4. A Gaelic Blessing | Rutter |
| 5. Holy, Holy, Holy | Tchaikovsky |
| 6. Shall we Gather at the River | Carter |
| 7. Panis Angelicus | Franck |
| 8. Look Keen and Fast | Garzilli |
| 9. Abide with Me | Lyte/Monk |
| 10. Love is the Answer | Garzilli |
| 11. Savior God Above | Ellington |
| 12. Cantate Domino | Pitoni |
| 13. Listen to the Lambs | Helvey |
| 14. Non Nobis | Doyle |
| 15. Go Now in Peace | Besig |

Soloists: Margaret Bradly, Sharon Davis, Bryan Kuchar; Organist/Pianist/Director: Dr. Enrico Garzilli

I would like to thank Elizabeth Candas and the Music Board for their work this past year. I would also like to thank Diana Geisler for her very much appreciated service as choir librarian. And to all of you I express my gratitude once again for your support, encouragement, and inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,
Enrico Garzilli

KCC Trustees' Report to Congregation July 18, 2018

Trustees remember with fondness our recently departed member, Clark Bridgman. Current Trustees: Tracy Heffron, Secretary, Mark Zedella, Audrey Hallberg, Wayne Lee, Mike Wakefield and Steve White, Chair. Wayne and Mike are welcomed as new Trustees this year.

Projects initiated or completed in the past year include the following:

1. Church Office Building and Fellowship Hall insulated (completed 2017);
2. Fireplace Room upgraded and refurbished (completed 2017);
3. One hundred new padded folding chairs for Fellowship Hall and sale of old chairs (completed 2017);
4. Fellowship Hall new roof and new floor (completed 2017);
5. Parking space striping to allow for emergency vehicle access (completed 2017);
6. Library sound system installed to allow sound to Library from Sanctuary (2017);
7. In an effort to improve the efficiency and productivity of KCC's Trustees budget, Trustees made the following changes in 2017: (1) when renewing the KCC property and casualty insurance the KCC deductible for any particular potential loss was raised from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in order to save \$600 per year in premium; (2) when renewing the lease on the office copier systems a new upgraded copier and scanner were installed at a substantial reduction in cost; and (3) in conjunction with the KCC Council and Deacons, the snow plowing policy was changed to avoid excessive plowing during Saturday night storms when services are being cancelled for the following Sunday morning.
8. Fellowship Hall and Church Office - Phase 3 of exterior restoration and painting (due for completion summer 2018);
9. New kitchen (voted by Congregation May 2018 and to be initiated January 2019);
10. Piano in Fellowship Hall upgraded with concert style wheels to allow easy movement anywhere within the Hall (completed 2018);
11. Green Church policy (initiated 2018);
12. No Smoking Policy extended to entirety of KCC property – inside and out (2018);
13. Paper products coordination among various boards (initiated 2018).
14. Investigating upgraded air-conditioning for Church Office and Fireplace Room (initiated 2018).

Treasurer's Report July 2017 – June 2018

As I complete my tenure as treasurer I write this final annual report thinking about the changes.

The software the church uses while a bit cumbersome is very powerful. The reports were always there but numerous and hard to understand.

1. Consolidated over 100 funds to 17. This simplified reporting and made possible 1 or 2 page reports for each board. The Balance Sheet is less than a page.

- a. memorial income into the Spire Fund for a single transfer to endowment as needed
- b. all the building improvement funds to the trustees fund manage by a board
- c. all the special giving funds to the missions fund manage by a board.

2. I have automated the entire process allowing the financial secretary to be able to print a state of the church report, in 2 reports; first the treasurer's report and second a balance sheet. With this came the ability for each board to request a general ledger to get a breakdown of all income and expenses.

The treasurer's report is now only 3 pages because it is only for the Operating Fund, or simply "the budget". The other 16 funds, now reported in the Balance Sheet are less active with less need to see activity unless requested by a board with a general ledger.

The church has 2 assets, property and money. The money asset is in 2 parts, checking at Bank of America, and the endowment at Vanguard. The endowment portion does not have a lot of activity and is not managed within the church's software and is managed by the Finance Board with Vanguard monthly reports.

This fiscal year ending, 17-18, ended with a surplus of \$5,537.

Income was up:

The church received more in pledges than budgeted. The budget was \$214,694 and actual receipts were \$219,159. I think this is because of changes in the federal laws regarding charitable giving. KCC received close to \$10,000 from pledges pre-paid in the last tax year 2017 for this year's KCC fiscal year 17-18. Therefore, prepaid pledges, unrestricted giving by non-church member contributions, plate offering and donations for building use were all up.

Expenses mostly down:

Office expenses were down with a change in the lease for a different copier and snow plowing. The only expense up was for heating. With the pastor going on Medicare and leaving before the end of the year the staff expenses were down contributing to most of the surplus.

Over my term I must thank Dick Geisler for his assistance in the beginning of my tenure, and Cathy White for being as readily available to Shirley as Financial Secretary. Certainly Shirley must be mentioned as she took on this role in addition to Office Administrator. As Financial Secretary she has taken on the day to day questions of the church boards and members. I must also mention all the help of the many assistant treasurers. It truly does take a community... for without their help the weekly contribution would not have been entered as timely.

Respectfully,
Doug Kraus, Treasurer

Board of Finance Annual Report July 2017 to July 2018

The Board of Finance met during the year to discuss its assigned mission to oversee the Church's financial matters. Jeff Richardson was the chair of the Board. The other members of the Board are Dick Geisler, Ken Kermes, Jim Ross, David Cann and Doug Kraus, who holds the position of Church Treasurer. The secretarial duties rotate for each meeting.

The Board of Finance supervises the Investment Committee, and thanks them for a great job of investing the endowment which raised it to a value of 1.4 million dollars. The Finance Board is happy to report that the finances for this fiscal year were sound. Unfortunately, for the long term our expenses continue to outpace our donations and other income needed to run the Church. The Church continues to rely upon withdrawing 5% or more from the endowment annually to cover the shortfall in the operating budget. The Board notes that as a means to help bring costs down, our Church is not currently financially supporting the RI UCC. We hope to successfully resolve our budget shortfalls in the years to come.

The Board discussed our long term financial health of the Church due to the aging demographics of our church family. The Finance Board will explore the issues of both long and short term financial health of the Church with an eye toward the operating budget and the need for physical maintenance to the church buildings.

A balanced budget for the fiscal year 2018-19 was passed at the Annual Congregational Meeting. However, we are now down to 102 pledging units which will create further issues with maintaining a balanced budget in the years to come. The Finance Board wishes to remind the Congregation to support the annual auction and the Scrip Program to help contribute to all of our Boards' missions and good works.

KCC Stewardship Campaign 2018

The Board of Stewardship, consisting of Judy Anderson, Karin Aukerman, Sharon Davis (co-chair), Ann Lenox (co-chair), and Angelo Mendillo, planned this year's Stewardship Campaign around the theme of "*Faithful Giving for All Seasons; Giving from what we have rather than from what we have left over.*"

The Campaign kicked off on January 21 with a wonderful Stewardship Moment during the church service from Susan Berman. On February 11, Rem Remington, representing Stewardship's Honorary Chairpersons of he and his wife, Lori, spoke during the Board of Fellowship's Meatball Sandwich Sunday gathering. Weldon preached on the topic of Stewardship on February 18, and Amy Hubertus was our final Stewardship speaker on February 25. Video access to each of the speakers' testimonials and Weldon's sermon were made available to all members through an emailed link.

All members and friends of the church were sent a Stewardship letter requesting a pledge for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Included with the letter was a suggested giving guide. The Board provided a variety of ways for pledges to be submitted: pledgers could use traditional pledge cards, pledgers could use a form which could be printed from an email attachment, or pledgers could submit their pledges online. Note that we received 21 pledges online.

The Campaign ended on March 11, which was the date the Board requested that all pledges be submitted; however, we have received additional pledges beyond this date. To date, we have received 102 pledges for a total of \$211,543.00. The Board of Stewardship is planning to send out thank you notes to each member and friend of KCC who pledged this year as we received positive feedback for this last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lenox, co-chair, Board of Stewardship, 6/10/2018

Investment Committee Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 – 2018

The Investment Committee met twice during FY 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018). The Committee approved minor changes to the Investment and Distribution Policy Statement at its October 1, 2017 meeting. The Revision (IDPS Rev. 2.1) was submitted to the Board of Finance for approval. On April, 8, 2018, Steve White presented to the Committee a Trustee request to use \$50,000 from the Endowment to repair and paint Fellowship Hall and the Church House; and up to \$30,000 to renovate the kitchen (donations will be requested from the congregation to reduce this amount). The Trustee request, in addition to the scheduled budget distribution of \$53,796, would result in a 9.4% withdrawal rate for 2018 (Endowment value on 1/1/2018 was \$1,429,626). The Committee expressed support for the Trustee projects, but concern over the size of the withdrawals. The Committee agreed that using the Endowment for improvements will put pressure on future stewardship since less money will be available for budget support, and continued, unscheduled withdrawals of these amounts are unsustainable.

On July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 the Endowment portfolio had market values of \$1,347,775 and \$1,401,896, respectively. During the fiscal year, \$53,798 was distributed to the Church budget (\$46,698 for operations, \$1,926 for music, and \$5,174 for cemetery use). No donations were made to the Endowment during this period. This distribution and market values result in a portfolio return of 8.2% for FY 2017-18. For comparison, during this period, the Vanguard S&P 500 Stock Fund (VFIAX) returned 14.3%, the Vanguard Balanced Fund (VBINX) returned 8.4% and the Composite Index Allocation, specified in IDPS Rev. 2.1, returned 9.8%.

On June 30, 2018, approximately 38% (\$534,852) of the Endowment was principal (cannot be spent) and 62% (\$867,044) was earnings. Budget distributions were 86.75% for operations, 3.58% for music and 9.67% for cemetery use. The Endowment portfolio held a mix of 12 mutual funds and ETFs with a year-end asset mix of 74.5% stocks, 20.1% bonds, and 5.4% cash.

The budget distribution for FY 2018-19 is based on a trailing 7-year rolling average using the Endowment's market value on December 31st of each year. The 7 year average from 2011 to 2017 is \$1,241,973. Using this average, the Committee recommended to the Board of Finance a 4.33% distribution of \$53,796 to support the Church budget for FY 2018-19 (86.75% for operations, 3.58% for music and 9.67% for cemetery use).

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald G. Stevens, Chairperson

Members: Jim Aukerman (Secretary), Dick Geisler, Mary Daly, Brad Trodson, Ron Stevens
Ex-officio Members: Doug Kraus, Jeff Richardson

Annual Meeting Report of Board of Membership – June 10, 2018

Members are: Al Curnow, Jim Findlay, Clare Sweeney, Fran Bergeron, Loretta Shaw (Registrar) Jeannie Burditt, Joyce Stevos and Andrea Richardson – Chairperson

1. Welcome Table: The Welcome Table is present in Fellowship Hall each Sunday and staffed by 2 volunteers who are available to talk with new people, answer questions and provide information to visitors.
2. Visitor follow-up calls: Clare Sweeney or I reach out to visitors (on an as needed basis) provided that they handed in a visitor card with their contact information.
3. Al Curnow is working on getting a young family group together. They are planning a trip to a Waves Game. He will send out an e-vite to the younger members and friends of KCC.
4. Membership Records: Now that we have changed the by-laws, our task was to update our membership records. With the elimination of 117 members who have not been seen in years and are not still supporting the church, we now have **328 members**. This year (from June 2017-June 2018) we have lost 9 members due to death, 19 members have requested that we remove them from our rolls and 2 members have joined KCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Richardson, Chair

Scrip Program Annual Report, July 2017--June 2018

The SCRIP Program is an ongoing fund raising initiative begun in the fall of 2009. Church members may purchase Retailers' Gift Cards for groceries and other items. The Church receives a rebate from retailers when we purchase the cards. This rebate averages about 4.5%, with rebates for a number of the 700 retailers being substantially higher. A complete list is at the Scrip table.

The SCRIP Table is staffed in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday both before and after the service. We carry cards for 14 retailers: Belmont, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, Dave's Market, CVS, Rite Aid, Walmart, Staples, Panera, Marshall's, Camden's, Starbuck's, Dunkin' Donuts, and iTunes. Cards may be used immediately. Other retailers' cards may be ordered on a Sunday for pick up the following Sunday. Cards such as Amazon, Brooks Brothers, Macy's, Home Depot, Lowe's and others may be ordered this way.

Payment for the cards may be made by check or by the correct amount of cash. Our earnings, once we sell the cards and pay for shipping, amount to over \$6,000 a year, which we distribute in periodic payments.

Most people think of Scrip first for groceries, then for gifts, then for hardware items. The acceptability of the Scrip idea is attested to by its widespread use among retailers. Take advantage of this accepted trade practice by retailers and use Scrip on behalf of your church!

Your Scrip team is made up entirely of volunteers working for our church: Nancy Corvese, Beth Curtis, Barbara and Gordon Johnson, Wayne Lee, Dottie Leduc, Elizabeth McNab, Jim Ross, Dick Shaw, and Cliff Snow. All the mechanics are in place and working well – let's use them to the fullest!

Respectfully submitted: Jim Ross

**KCC Membership Report
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018**

Members as of July 1, 2017 **471**

Additions:

Confirmands	0
New Members	2

Total Additions: **2**

Losses:

Death	9
Transfer	3
Inactive by Request	16
Inactive by Board of Membership	117

Total Losses: **145**

Members as of June 30, 2018 **328**

Baptisms	3
Marriages	0

Date

Baptisms

Brady Michael LaPlante	November 12, 2017
Kathryn Elizabeth Zedella	December 10, 2017
Myles Christopher Guerra	February 18, 2018

New Members

Lisa Bowe	October 22, 2017
Jackie Camm	October 22, 2017

Deaths

Janice Canerdy	February 13, 2017
Delight Carpenter	August 7, 2017
Clark Bridgeman Jr.	September 9, 2017
Wilma Moore	September 18, 2017
Patricia J. Weeden	September 30, 2017
Frederick Test	January 6, 2018
Frances Hatch	January 19, 2018
Barbara E. Burford	February 13, 2018
Anne S. Ladd	April 12, 2018
Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa	non-member April 16, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta H. Shaw
Registrar

KCC Board of Missions and Social Justice 2017-18 Report

Members: Jim Findlay, Ron Stevens, Judi Parman, Judy Anderson, Cindy Buxton, Susan Davis, Karen Johnson (chair)

September 2017

Judi Parman organized and prepared for Blanket Sunday. Ron and Cindy attended the All Boards Meeting in September. Budget for the year was \$6500.00 in 8 categories: Local Emergency Crisis Fund, Housing, Local and International Relief, Reducing Poverty in RI, Environment, Local and International Health, Hunger in RI, Miscellaneous. Ron Stevens aptly keeps the financials in a budget handout given at each meeting.

October 2017

Blanket Sunday total collection was \$2671.00 which the BOMSJ warmly thanks the congregation for. This year there were two back to back hurricanes that devastated Puerto Rico and Texas for which the need for help is great. From miscellaneous expenses, Ron was reimbursed \$59.90 for food expenses for a Welcome House event.

November 2017

Preparations were made for the Christmas collection and to begin to discuss the agencies that would benefit from our budget. We sent \$845 to the Jonnycake Center for their Local Emergency Crisis Fund. This fund helps carefully chosen families who are in need of short term assistance for housing and housing related expenses. We also sent \$500 to Habitat for Humanity from Housing.

December 2017

From the Christmas Offering total of \$4536.00, 75% went to Church World Service earmarked for hurricane disaster relief in Puerto Rico and 25% went to the Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross).

January 2018

Preparations for the Emig Lecture and Poverty in the Pulpit where Victoria Strang of the Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty was to be the featured speaker, and Pastor Weldon Palmer would also deliver a sermon on poverty. The honorarium for Victoria was set to be \$300. Kate Brewster of the Jonnycake Center also spoke on local efforts and her honorarium was \$150. These honorariums came from the Miscellaneous line item of the budget.

February 2018

As previously discussed, checks were sent to the following: from Housing to Habitat for Humanity an additional \$300.00 after meeting the new director, also from Housing \$200 to Welcome House, from Environment to Interfaith Power and Light Membership \$150.00, from Hunger to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank \$1000.00. A poverty lecture was held this month and well attended and appreciated by the congregation after which Kate Brewster was hosted for a talk.

March 2018

Preparations for One Great Hour of Sharing were discussed, and Judy, Judi and Jim were helpful in coordination. Still trying to arrange a talk from Cameron Ellis of the Education Exchange but having trouble finding a date. Making preparations for final distributions from budget: From Local and International Relief, \$845.00 to Dorcus International, from Reducing Poverty in Rhode Island \$500.00 to the Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty and \$500 to the Education Exchange, and from Local and International Health, \$500.00 to the Domestic Violence Resource Center and \$500.00 to the Rhode Island Free Clinic. We have two new members from the Boards and Committees Job Fair, Lisa Bowe and Amy Hubertus.

April 2018

Throughout the year the Board sponsored several various RI legislative initiatives in line with social justice by signing cards to the RI legislators. The Board requested and was granted an increase in the annual budget by \$1000.00. We would like to add a line item for Honorariums to the next budget. \$150.00 was saved hoping to still have Cameron Ellis speak. We began to discuss the Wisdom Stoves project as a possible target of our financial support for next year. We continue to remember our connection to the local mosque at URI.

May 2018

Lisa joined us this month. Charlie Sweeney had questions regarding requirement of Fair Trade coffee for the fellowship hour after church, which the group supported but cannot be afforded 100% of the time. Those who went to the Annual Conference for the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty spoke of their impressions of the event. There was agreement that the speaker was excellent and the workshops informative. Again, statistics on poverty and food insecurity are surprising for this small state. It is with sadness that we send Judy Anderson on to her future endeavors; she has been a supportive and helpful member of the Board.

June 2018

There being \$150.00 left in the budget (was being saved for Cameron Ellis) the decision was made to send it to KIND which is an organization to help children with immigration issues. On June 17, 2018, Tina Letcher gave an additional \$100 to KIND in the name of BOMSJ and also \$100 to Beautiful Day RI. There is majority agreement that Sundays after church are a good time for meetings. We will continue with the convention of the second Sunday but will be flexible to allow for maximum participation by members.

Board of Christian Education Annual Report July 2017 – June 2018

The Board of Christian Education had another successful year despite lower numbers in our Church School Program. Our Adult Education classes, offered by several members of the Church, were well attended and received great reviews. I express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Board including Jennifer Coleman, Jean Miller, Jessie Kenyon, Carol Thornber, Jessica Ilgenfritz and myself. Despite some medical setbacks Alice Babcock remained our steadfast leader.

Church School:

This year we were again blessed to have a number of members participate as teachers and aids during our Sunday school worship time. With lower numbers, we decided to hold classes as one large group. This was a great opportunity for children of all ages to interact. We had fun creating three different plays that we performed before the congregation. With the help of Clare Sweeney we started a Junior Deacons program that the children enthusiastically participated in. They helped during worship with greeting, ushering and reading. They even read the morning announcements. We sang in front of the congregation two times and played the chimes once. We cooked for coffee hour and helped serve and clean-up. We were involved in numerous art projects that we put on our C.E. bulletin board. It was a very successful year filled with fun and happiness. Alice is a fine leader.

Adult Education:

The Board of Christian Education has again actively promoted adult education as a component to our regular worship. With the help of numerous members we offered several different classes that were well attended and well received. We will again be offering new opportunities this fall.

Safe Church Policy:

The Board continues to update and amend the KCC policy to ensure that all our members of the congregation are safe. With the help of our leaders and other members our goal is to continue safe church practices at all our meetings and interactions.

The Board of Christian Education would like to thank our Church School Director, Alice Babcock, for her continued leadership through a very tough year. We are hoping to expand church school and adult education for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael McMahon

Board of Fellowship Annual Report 2017/2018

The Fellowship Board is an enthusiastic and hard working group responsible for creating social events that bring together our church community to build camaraderie and kinship.

This year, the Fellowship Board hosted 8 events:

- Welcome Back Ice Cream Social
- Fall Brunch
- Advent Wreath “wreaths to go”
- Winter Pot Luck dinner
- Meatball Sandwich Sunday
- Spring Pot Luck
- Progressive Supper
- Kick off to Summer Barbeque

Attendance remains steady in our fourth year – with approximately 120 attendees. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Our Board is very interested in hearing feedback and making program adjustments, based on suggestions from the Congregation. In this regard, we made Advent Wreaths “to go”, added the Spring pot luck supper and meatball sandwich Sunday to mix things up a bit.

I want to extend my thanks to board members who work tirelessly to make each event appear effortless: Tracy Heffron, JoAnn Pillar, Maureen White, Sarah Simeone and Diana Geisler. I would also like to thank Andy Cournoyer, Shirley Schock, and spouses Mike McMahan, Dick Geisler and Steve White for their unwavering support.

We are looking forward to creating an equally welcoming environment of fellowship and community in the coming year.

Respectfully,
Mary K. Daly
Board of Fellowship Chair

Flower Committee Annual Report July 2017-July 2018

The Flower Committee continued its weekly responsibilities from September 1 thru the last Sunday of June, with flowers for the altar and front door. After the service, we divided the flowers into three arrangements - one was given to the donors (if in church) and two were given to other individuals based on prayers and celebrations. A record is kept in a notebook in the Committee's closet. Each donor is asked to pay \$50 for the arrangement by leaving a check in the offering or mailing it to the church office. There were 33 Sundays with flowers from Kenyon's and on two Sundays (9/17 and 6/24) we had two donors due to significant dates. Our relationship with Kenyon Ave. Floral continues and each week the flowers are beautiful.

For the summer months of July and August, anyone can bring in flowers from their garden or purchase flowers to bring in/take out. Signing up in advance or a notice in the bulletin is not required. A green plant can be substituted if there are no flowers.

The Flower Committee decorated the sanctuary and doors for Christmas with our traditional garlands and wreaths on November 26 after service and before the first Sunday of Advent. The Christmas Play was December 17 so the Poinsettias were picked up on December 15 by Helen at the Pezza Farm in Johnston and the display was arranged in place on the 17th after the service. We ordered them through Troop 1 Kingston boy scouts for \$12 each, 22 red and 12 white ones for a total of 34 and a cost of \$408. We had to order them early, on December 1, and hoping to sell them all, we charged \$15. Ones not taken were given away to church staff and a few to nursing home shut-ins.

For Easter, which was April 1st this year, we did a display of 20 lilies, 10 tulips and 8 daffodils. Flowers were ordered from Kenyon Floral (the lilies were \$14, tulips + daffodils \$12=total \$496). They were delivered Friday, April 30th and set up on Saturday the 31st by Helen and Jenn. We had 32 donors at a cost of \$15=\$480. Again any left overs were given away to staff and a few individuals.

Total costs for the Flower Committee for July 2017-July 2018 were \$2770.10 and the total revenue was \$2,785.00 resulting in a gain of \$14.10 for KCC. We are a part of the Deacons budget items.

As of June 30, 2017 Patti Steere, Jessie Kenyon, and Lynn Broderick stepped down and Helen Rowe-Drake stepped up to be chair. She finds it easier to co-ordinate/phone/email past donors for each month and submit it to Shirley by the 15th of the month. Other members of the Committee only need to be in church and do the arrangements for their month.

The Committee is in need of some more members as we are low in number and some were unable to help or to attend church.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Rowe-Drake, chair
Jenn Deluise
Angela Haggerty
Lora Hahn-Schubert

Michele Girasole-floater, teaching church school
Lori Remington-Jan only
Beth Curtis
Erica Estus

Women's Fellowship Annual Report- June 2017-July 2018

KCC Women's Fellowship is open to all women who are members and friends of this congregation. Our mission is to: 1) provide friendship and support and to nurture each woman's faith journey, 2) to come together for education, entertainment and enjoyment and 3) to donate our time, efforts and money to projects which benefit our church, our community and the world.

We met in September with a potluck supper and time to share our news and update everyone with our calendar of events. In October we shared items and their history "This Old Thing", in January Cindy Buxton and Karen Johnson presented various Health Topics and in March Joan Wolfe shared with us her art work and paintings. In November, Helen RoweDrake and Cindy Buxton facilitated the Gingerbread House Decorating Event with 60 houses and intergenerational participants. In December, Judi Parman headed up our Christmas Cookie and Gift Sale during Holiday in Kingston. Diana Geisler chaired our Bulbs for Shut Ins and their delivery. In April, we assembled our School and Hygiene Kits for Church World Service which Helen RoweDrake buys and coordinates and delivers each year. In May we have a Bake Sale as part of Kingston Fair and in June we have our Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social. Throughout the year Carolyn Barwise sends out birthday cards, well wishes and sympathy cards. Overall, we have about 20-30 women who attend our meetings and many more who donate funds, gifts and baked goods for our sales.

We send out an annual letter in the fall soliciting funds and in June we donate our funds to our charities and decide any other donations or projects, as well as set our dates for the next year and elect officers. This past year for our church, we spent \$475 with Flint Audio to have speakers in the Library working again so the service can be heard in there. We spent \$50 on flowers the Sunday of Memorial Day to honor women who serve and women of our church past and present. Since our junior and senior high are not as active, we chose to give \$200 to Lily Trodson for her trip to Costa Rica. We also donated \$2058.00 to the New Kitchen Fund from our savings account. For Church World Service, we assembled 100 school kits and 100 hygiene kits totaling \$1126.47. Locally, we gave \$60 to Kingston Library for a special project and we delivered a \$100 fruit basket at Ramadan to our Muslim neighbors. Our other RI charities include: SC Church Women United, Southern RI Volunteers, SC Habitat for Humanity, Welcome House, Adoption RI, Domestic Violence Resource Center, RI Food Bank, Johnny Cake Center, Camp Ruggles, and Cane Child Development Center for a total of \$2400.

With thanks to our past Board members: co-presidents Cindy Buxton and Nancy Ross, treasurer Karen Tucker, sunshine Carolyn Barwise, publicity Helen RoweDrake and program help from Connie Fitzelle. Our Holiday in Kingston and Kingston Fair Bake Sales couldn't happen without the help of many who baked, set up, sold, bought and organized these two fund raisers. Thank you.

Our new Board members are: President Michelle Girasole, Vice President Nancy Ross, Secretary Cindy Buxton, Treasurer Karen Tucker, Sunshine Carolyn Barwise, Publicity Helen RoweDrake.

Women's Fellowship is not a Church Board and is a separate, small, but vital part of the life of KCC and our local community.

Submitted by Helen Rowe-Drake

Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase
Report of the Cemeteries Committee
May 10, 2018

Background - The Cemeteries Committee supervises three cemeteries: Old Fernwood and Tower Hill belong to the Society, and the Peckham Family Cemetery belonging to that family. The Tower Hill Cemetery, on the site of the first church building in the history of the Kingston Congregational Church, had its first burial in 1719 and its last one, Bernon E. Helme, in 1944. Although inactive since then, it is still open for burials. The Peckham Family Cemetery is restricted to use by members of that family, but is cared for by our committee in accordance with an agreement made with the late Dorothy Peckham who contributed \$5,000 to our endowment for that purpose. Old Fernwood is divided into two parts: the original section was given by Elisha Reynolds Potter in 1826 for use by members of this Society and of the church, and by people living within one mile of the church or of the cemetery. The extension of Old Fernwood, landscaped in the 1960's and put into use in the 1990's, was given by Herbert J. Wells in 1927 for use by members of this Society and of the church and their families.

2017 - 2018 Report - Chris Faella, caretaker for New Fernwood Cemetery, covers the routine maintenance at Old Fernwood and the Peckham Cemeteries. Scott Wallace continues to provide maintenance at the Tower Hill Cemetery.

On Saturday, October 21, 2017 the South County History Center (PHS) presented a program at the Tower Hill Cemetery. It included remembrance of Bernon Helme - a founder of URI who came up with the idea while sweeping the floor, active member KCC, postmaster, shopkeeper, etc. The NGC Chapter of the DAR had, previous to this program, cleaned some of the monuments and the beautiful DAR monument in the front.

With the many fall and winter storms many trees and branches littered the Old Fernwood Cemetery. Cleanup has been extensive, but still needs much more work – potholes, tree removals, new plantings, etc. A large dead pine tree was taken down in the Peckham Cemetery last week.

During the past year (May 2017-April 2018) the following death/interments took place: in the old section of OF – Patricia J. (Ballentine) Weeden 9/30/17 #153, new section – Wilma C. (Leonard) Moore 9/18/17 #210, Ward Abusamra 10/18/17 #9, Frances Terry Hatch 1/19/18 #105, Barbara Ellen (Cole) Burford 2/13/18 (burial to be held 5/12/18 #314), Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa 4/16/18 (burial to be held 7/20/18 #207)

Our desire continues to have the cemeteries in every respect places of honor to the dead and of comfort to their relatives and friends. Lots remain available in both cemeteries with contributions to the endowment fund. Rates were raised on September 1, 2007 to \$600 for non-members and \$450 for members. The Committee will be reviewing rates this year. Reservations may be made for future use, and a number of families have elected to have monuments placed on their lots even many years in advance of actual use, thus easing the burden on the family at a time of great sorrow. All reserved lots continue to be held in ownership by the CSPP.

Respectfully submitted: Cemetery Committee - Ann Ross, Jim Ross, Elizabeth McNab, Richard Shaw, Tracy Heffron, and Jane Skogley